

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2083

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, HO

SUBJECT: BIO DATA ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0009

1. THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTS THE EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF THE FOUR NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON EACH:

(A) MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS - ROBERTO PERDOMO PAREDES. PERDOMO IS ONLY 46 BUT HAS HAD A LONG DIPLOMATIC CAREER. HE HAS BEEN A DELEGATE TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND WAS A SECRETARY OF THE HONDURAN EMBASSY IN THE NETHERLANDS DURING 1957-1959; IN 1958-1959, HE SERVED AS THE HONDURAN DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. HE BECAME UNDER-SECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN MARCH 1959 AND SUBSEQUENTLY MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS FROM DECEMBER 1962 TO OCTOBER 1963. HE WAS A MEMBER OF TWO COMMISSIONS IN 1967 THAT HAD BEEN CREATED TO INVESTIGATE THE HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR BORDER DISPUTE AND TO FIND A JURIDICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM; IN AUGUST 1967, HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE HONDURAN BORDER DELEGATION WHICH MET WITH THE SALVADORANS IN ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA. HE SERVED AS

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AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS DURING 1969-1971 AND WAS THE HONDURAN

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CACM HIGH LEVEL RESTRUCTURING COMMISSION DURING 1973-1974. HE WAS BORN IN TRINIDAD, SANTA BARBARA, HONDURAS ON AUGUST 29, 1929. HE RECEIVED A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NICARAGUA AND FURTHER LEGAL TRAINING IN SPAIN. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER MARTA JULIA LOPEZ AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. PERDOMO HAS BEEN A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AND CONTINUES TO BE INVOLVED IN PARTY ACTIVITIES. HE IS GENERALLY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. HE IS KNOWN TO BE DESIROUS OF BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR.

(B) MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS - LT. COLONEL MARIO FLORES THERESIN. SEZ UPDATED DAO TEGUCIGALPA DTG 022223Z JAN 76.

(C) MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE - VICENTE DIAZ REYES. DIAZ HAS ATTENDED MANY INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS AND SEMINARS CONCERNING ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. HE HELD A VARIETY OF POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY DURING 1958-1962. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE WORKED FOR SIECA FROM 1963 TO 1971 IN A NUMBER OF POSITIONS DEALING WITH REGIONAL INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES AND PROBLEMS. HE WAS NAMED SUB-SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IN JUNE 1971 AND REMAINED IN THAT POSITION UNTIL HE BECAME ACTING MINISTER EARLY DECEMBER 1975 AND WAS CONFIRMED IN THAT POSITION ON JANUARY 1. DIAZ WAS BORN IN TELA, ATLANTIDA, HONDURAS ON FEBRUARY 19, 1938. HE IS MARRIED. HE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HONDURAS IN 1959 WITH A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND RECEIVED POSTGRADUATE TRAINING IN WILLIAMS COLLEGE, WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS WHERE HE RECEIVED A MASTERS DEGREE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN 1967. HE OBTAINED A MASTERS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY IN 1968. HE IS REGARDED AS FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. HE IS BELIEVED TO BE A COMPETENT, HONEST AND A POLITICAL PUBLIC SERVANT.

(D) AGRARIAN REFORM INSTITUTE (INA) - RIGOBERTO SANDOVAL COREA (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR). SANDOVAL HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED WITH AGRARIAN REFORM DEVELOPMENTS FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. HE WAS EMPLOYED WITH THE U.N. IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, 1955; THE HONDURAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK WORKING ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS, 1957-1959; CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE, 1960-1961; AND THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, 1962-1967. HE WAS DIRECTOR OF INA FROM MAY 1967 TO JUNE 1971. SINCE THAT TIME, HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE FAO IN ROME. HE WAS BORN IN EL ACEITUNO, VALLE7; HONDURAS ON JANUARY 3, 1928. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. SANDOVAL GRADUATED WITH A B.S. IN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TUCSON IN 1955 AND SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK GRADUATE STUDIES AT

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND AT WALES UNIVERSITY IN THE U.K. HE IS NOMINALLY A MEMBER OF THE NATIONALIST PARTY, BUT IS IN FACT NON-PARTISAN IN HIS POLITICAL OUTLOOK. HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND OPEN IN PAST ASSOCIATION WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND APPEARS TO BE FREINDLY TO THE U.S. SANDOVAL WAS A WELL-QUALIFIED ENERGETIC AND INTELLIGENT ADMINIS-TRATOR WHILE HEADING INA PREVIOUSLY. HOWEVER, HE ENCOUNTERED A GREAT DEAL OF RESISTANCE TO HIS MEASURES FROM THE LARGE LANDOWNERS AND FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CAMPESINOS (ANACH).- FANDOVAL RESIGNED IN JUNE 1971 BECAUSE HE DID NOT HAVE EX-PRESIDENT CRUZ' SUPPORT IN ATTEMPTING TO CARRY OUT WHAT HE REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL AGRARIAN REFORM EFFORTS. HE WILL NOT ASSUME THE DIRECTORSHIP OF INA UNTIL HE RETURNS FROM ROME IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH. SANCHEZ

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